

REMARKS

Claims 8-21 pending in the application, with claims 8 and 14 being independent.

Claims 8, 9, 12-15 and 18-21 are generic to all three species. Claims 10 and 16 read on the elected species, as well as species 3 (Figs. 4 and 4a). Claims 11 and 17 read on the elected species. Thus, all pending claims read on the elected species.

In response to the inquiry in the Advisory Action, the previously presented claims in the Amendment filed December 28, 2008 refer to a “set” in claim 8, line 8, and claim 14, line 11.

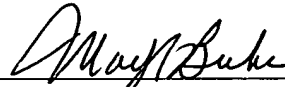
Objections to the Drawings

The newly submitted drawings add arrows “f” and “w” to each of Figs. 2, 2b, 3 and 4 to show the filtering flow and the washing flow, respectively, as clearly described in the paragraph spanning pages 8-9 of the substitute specification and on page 9 of the originally filed specification. The additions of these arrows are fully supported by the present application, particularly since the original application would be interpreted in this manner by one skilled in this art.

In response to the statement made in the Advisory Action relative to the illustrations and descriptions of the species of Figs. 2 and 2b aiding in the understanding and enablement of the species of Figs. 3 and 4, the substitute specification states on page 9, lines 17-18, “The following embodiments shown in FIGS. 3 and 4 are described below only to the extent that they differ essentially from the preceding embodiments.” The same statement appeared in the original application. Thus, the description of the flows of the first embodiment or species applies to the other embodiments or species, as is common in patent applications, to aid in understanding and enablement.

Thus, claims 8-21 comply with all requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112 and are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark S. Bucks", written over a horizontal line.

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